

RESOLUTION TITLE: Amendment of terms to include both priests and deacons as eligible to serve on Standing Committee, the Disciplinary Board, and Panels of the Disciplinary Board

RESOLVED, That the 234th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island amend Canon IV, Section 4.1 and Canon XVI, Sections 16.3 and 16.9 of the Diocesan Canons to read:

Section 4.1 Duties. The Standing Committee, comprised of four ~~Presbyters~~ clergy canonically resident in the Diocese and four lay persons who shall be lay adult communicants in good standing registered in a congregation in the Diocese, shall be the council of advice to the Bishop and shall perform such duties as required by and in conformance with the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.

Section 16.3 Disciplinary Board. The Diocese shall have a court known as the Disciplinary Board (the “DB”) composed of not less than nine members, five of whom shall be ~~presbyters~~ clergy canonically resident in the Diocese and four of whom shall be lay adult communicants (21 years or older) in good standing registered in a congregation in the Diocese. The Bishop shall nominate and Convention shall confirm members to serve for staggered terms of up to three years. In the event of a vacancy in membership, the Bishop shall appoint an individual of the same order as the former member to serve until the next Annual Convention.

Section 16.9 Panels. In accordance with Canon IV.2 of the Canons of the Church, a Reference Panel shall be composed of the Intake Officer, the President of the DB and the Bishop. In accordance with Title IV of the Canons of the Church, a Conference Panel and a Hearing Panel shall be chosen by the President of the DB; provided, however, in the event a Conference Panel shall have more than one member, the Panel shall include at least one ~~presbyter~~ clergy, and each Hearing Panel shall include at least one ~~presbyter~~ clergy.

EXPLANATION

Diocesan Canon IV, Section 4.1 and Canon XVI, Sections 16.3 and 16.9 currently provide for presbyters to serve on the Standing Committee, the Disciplinary Board, and Panels of the Disciplinary Board. The language does not allow for deacons to serve in these capacities. The amendment proposes changing the language from presbyter to clergy to include both priests and deacons as eligible to serve on the Standing Committee, the Disciplinary Board, and Panels of the Disciplinary Board.